

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities
- Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services

*what a wonderful
Technology!*

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Vinette Dore

Lamar University
P.O. Box 10242
Beaumont, Texas 77710-0242

May 15, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: CG 03-123

Dear Chairman Kevin Martin,

I heard about your proposal to cut funding and this would affect Sorenson Communications which I work as videophone installer/trainer for Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. My customers truly need best quality VRS in this area that I install, replace, and train them to use their videophones. The VRS is only their best access and best advantage to the hearing world. I want to inform you that the cutting the video relay service (VRS) rate would severely affect the quality of VRS, which my customers and I rely on for our communication needs. Please create a fair and predictable VRS rate for the next three years.

Respectfully yours,

Steven Gene Whitworth
Videophone Installer/Trainer
Sorenson Communications
cc: Sorenson Communications